

FORM E - BURIAL GROUND

Assessor's Number
Number

USGS Quad

Area(s)

Form

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL
COMMISSION
MASSACHUSETTS ARCHIVES BUILDING
220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

54-0-8-0

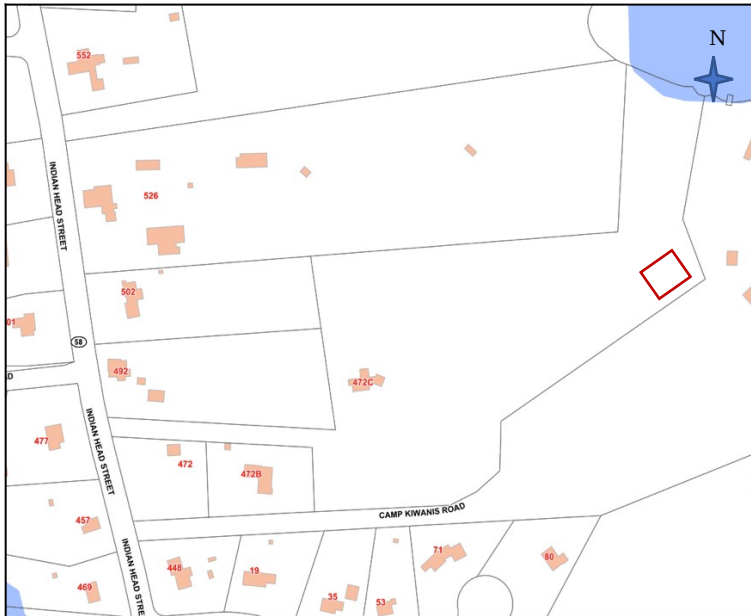
Hanover

HNS.803

Photograph



Locus Map



Town: Hanson

Place (*neighborhood or village*):

Address or Location: 472C Indian Head
Street

Name: Howland Cemetery

Ownership: ☐ *Public* ☒ *Private*

Approximate Number of Stones: Three

Earliest Death Date: 1846

Latest Death Date: 1869

Landscape Architect: Not Applicable

Condition: Fair

Acreage: An approx. 200 sf. plot on an 8.08
acre property

Setting: Located on private land, the small
cemetery is set well back from the street on a
heavily wooded lot at the south end of Maguan
Pond.

Recorded by: Lara Kritzer, JM Goldson
community preservation +
planning

Organization: Hanson Historical
Commission

Date (*month / year*): July 2018

INVENTORY FORM E CONTINUATION SHEET

HANSON

0 MAIN STREET

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☐

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☐ Recommended for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.
If checked, you must attach a completed National Register Criteria Statement form.

Use as much space as necessary to complete the following entries, allowing text to flow onto additional continuation sheets.

VISUAL/DESIGN ASSESSMENT

Describe landscape features, gravestone materials, designs, motifs, and symbols that are either common Note any known carvers.

The Howland Cemetery is the only surviving early cemetery in Hanson located on private land. The cemetery is a small, square patch of land located in the far western corner of the lot in a heavily wooded area. The property owners have taken care of the site throughout their ownership of the property, reporting that after several of the stones were knocked over and vandalized in previous decades, the remaining stones were taken down and the headstones buried for protection. The site is set back from a path through the area and is enclosed by four granite bollards, one at each corner of the plot, with wrought iron railings installed on the top of the bollards along each side. Below the railings, broken chains are installed on one pillar, suggesting an earlier means of enclosing the space.

On first view, the cemetery appears to be vacant with leaves, pine needles, and groundcover covering the open space. With the help of the owner, however, the original stones were unearthed. The property owner believes that there were originally four headstones, but only three could be located including one slate and two marble stones. One marble stone is no longer legible but is intact, while the remaining stones are at least partially legible but are now broken. The bases for the stones are still in place on the site as well.

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE

Explain religious affiliations, major period of use, and evaluate historical association of this burial ground with the community.

Howland Cemetery is a small family burying ground established in 1846 on the Howland Family farm. Lewis Howland (1806-1846) was born in Pembroke and married Pamela Thomas Drake in 1825. Lewis worked as a furnaceman and died at the age of 40 from smallpox. Smallpox victims were generally buried immediately, often outside of the town's burial grounds due to the highly contagious nature of the disease. This explains why the Howland Cemetery was founded so late in the 1800s when the Town's Burial Hill was already well established and only a year before the opening of the Fern Hill Cemetery. Lewis was buried in the back corner of the Howland family farm in 1846 and was later joined by his wife, Pamela, who died in 1869 at the age of 64, and their daughter, Susan, who died in 1866 at the age of 16. Although the property owner believes there is a fourth stone, only these three are still visible and no other stones have been recorded on the site. In a 1959 photo from the *History of the Town of Hanson*, all three stones are shown standing on the site.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

Allan Clemons, Town Historian.

Cemeteries of Hanson, MA USGenWeb Project, <https://usgenwebhansonma.wordpress.com/cemeteries/>

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Hanson Historical Commission. *History of Town of Hanson*. March 2, 1959. (Typescript) Project of Historical Commission and Board of Selectmen approved by vote of Town Meeting.
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"Howland Cemetery" (FindaGrave): <https://www.findagrave.com/cemetery/2530451/howland-cemetery>

Maria McClellan, Current Property Owner.

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Howland Cemetery, circa 1959. Image from History of the Town of Hanson and taken from www.usgenwebhansonma.wordpress.com/cemeteries/howland